

Monthly Report: January 2021

Breaking NEWS:

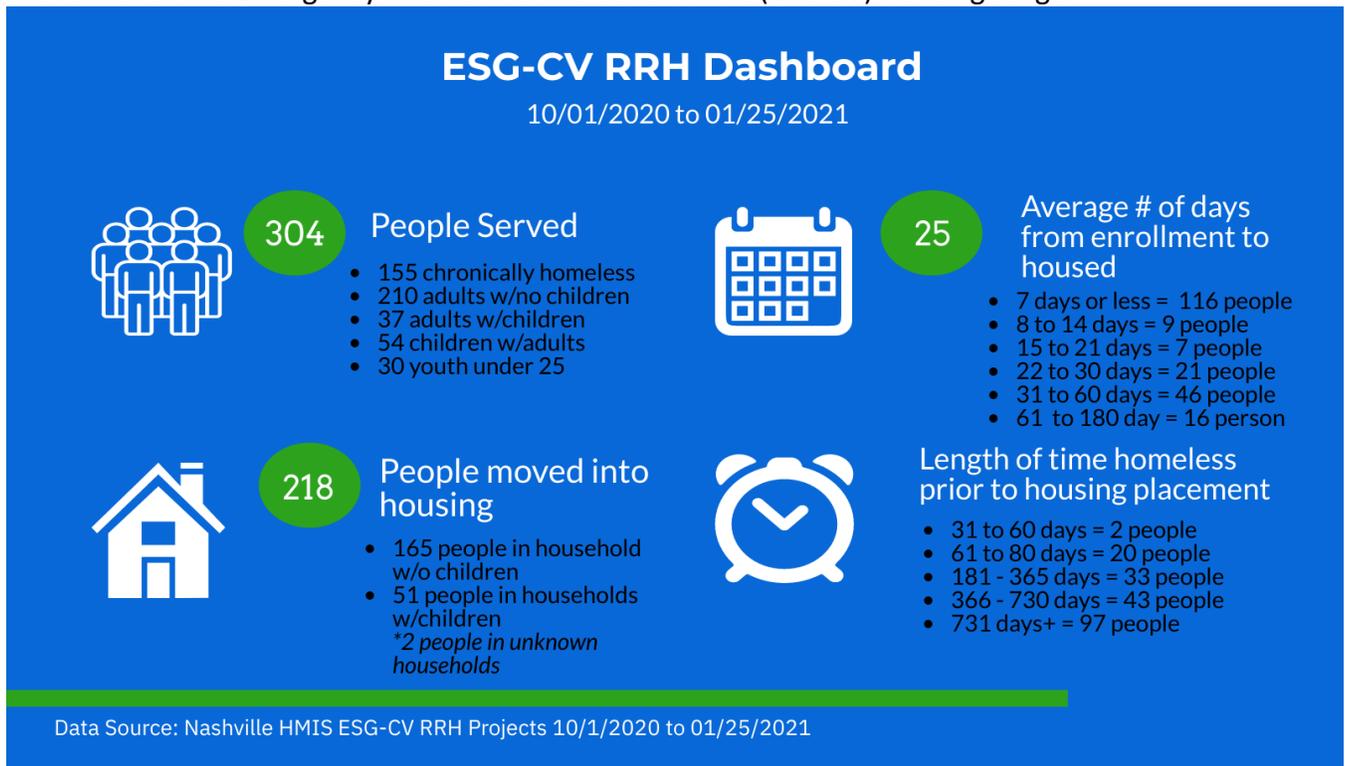
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced in late January the Continuum of Care Awards for FY2020.

Nashville received a total of \$6.1 million, which is up from \$3.9 million last year, and signifies an increase of more than 55%. This increase is a consequence of the community’s work to apply for as many HUD grant opportunities as possible over the past few years including a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant. The YHDP grant was a two-year grant, which has expired. To ensure ongoing services for youth homelessness, any recurring costs from that grant were included in this year’s CoC funding allocation and will be renewable in the future. This is a huge win for Nashville!

For a breakdown of awards, please visit: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/awards/>

Emergency Solutions Grant & Housing Search

The Rapid Re-Housing programs are being implemented. Please see the most recent slide that shows the results of the Emergency Solutions Grant-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Housing Surge.



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Additional housing searches continue. We need to identify a total of 400 permanent housing units and would like most of those to be with traditional landlords.

Background that we have included in most of the monthly reports:

Nashville has received a total of \$10 million in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding as part of its CARES dollars to address COVID-19 (ESG-CV grants). These funds are designated to respond to homelessness. They are one-time funds and are exponentially higher than the usual annual ESG allocations, which was \$450,000 for 2020. In addition to the \$10 million, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided Nashville with free technical assistance and has assigned Heather Dillashaw of ICF (icf.com) as our local consultant to use the COVID-19 allocations to improve our Housing Crisis Resolution System.

The goal is to house 400+ families with Rapid Re-Housing funds. Nonprofit partners have applied for the ESG-CV grants, which are managed locally by MDHA. The grants will pay up to one year in rent assistance to individuals and some families. Rapid Re-Housing is a program that also pays for support services once people obtained housing. The goal is to increase income for people, so they can maintain their housing long-term. In addition, Metro, MDHA, and ICF are working with community partners to develop a process that will link people with ongoing rent subsidies whenever possible.

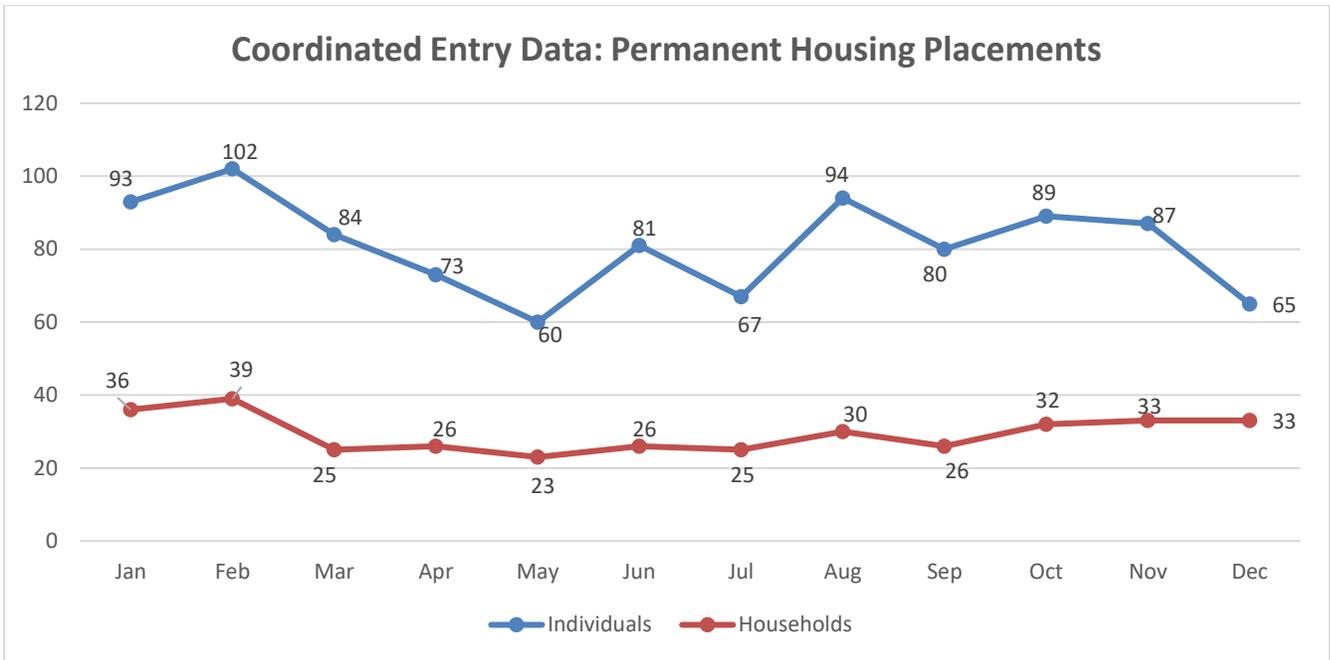
Approximately a dozen partner agencies are also coordinating their housing searches to ensure our community has housing available for people. As part of that process, our community is focusing on utilizing motels as efficiency housing. Landlords, including motels, must be willing to enter one-year leases with options for renewal. **Any landlord or motel/hotel owners willing to receive more information can contact Deon Trotter at deon.trotter@nashville.gov.**

Housing Placement Rate

Per data entered into the Coordinated Entry (CE) process through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), 65 individuals or 33 households obtained permanent housing in the months of December.

The total housing placement numbers in CE from January through December 2020, are 975 individuals making up 354 households. Thus, the monthly permanent housing placement rate per CE data averaged 81 individuals or 29 households in 2020.

If you have been following this report closely, you will see that numbers from previous reports have changed. They were adjusted after our increased effort to clean up data entries, which reduced some of the housing placements due to duplicative data entry. Data quality depends on accurate data entry. The staff at the Homeless Impact Division is dedicated to providing ongoing community trainings and support to continuously improve our community's data quality.



HMIS Report

Moving forward, the Homeless Impact Division’s HMIS Team is creating a separate HMIS report. We believe it is imperative that the Homelessness Planning Council understands what data we are collecting, what data HMIS is capable of collecting, and where we are in the data collection process. Please review the separate report. By doing so, you will familiarize yourself with the current state of the data quality and data completeness of HMIS.

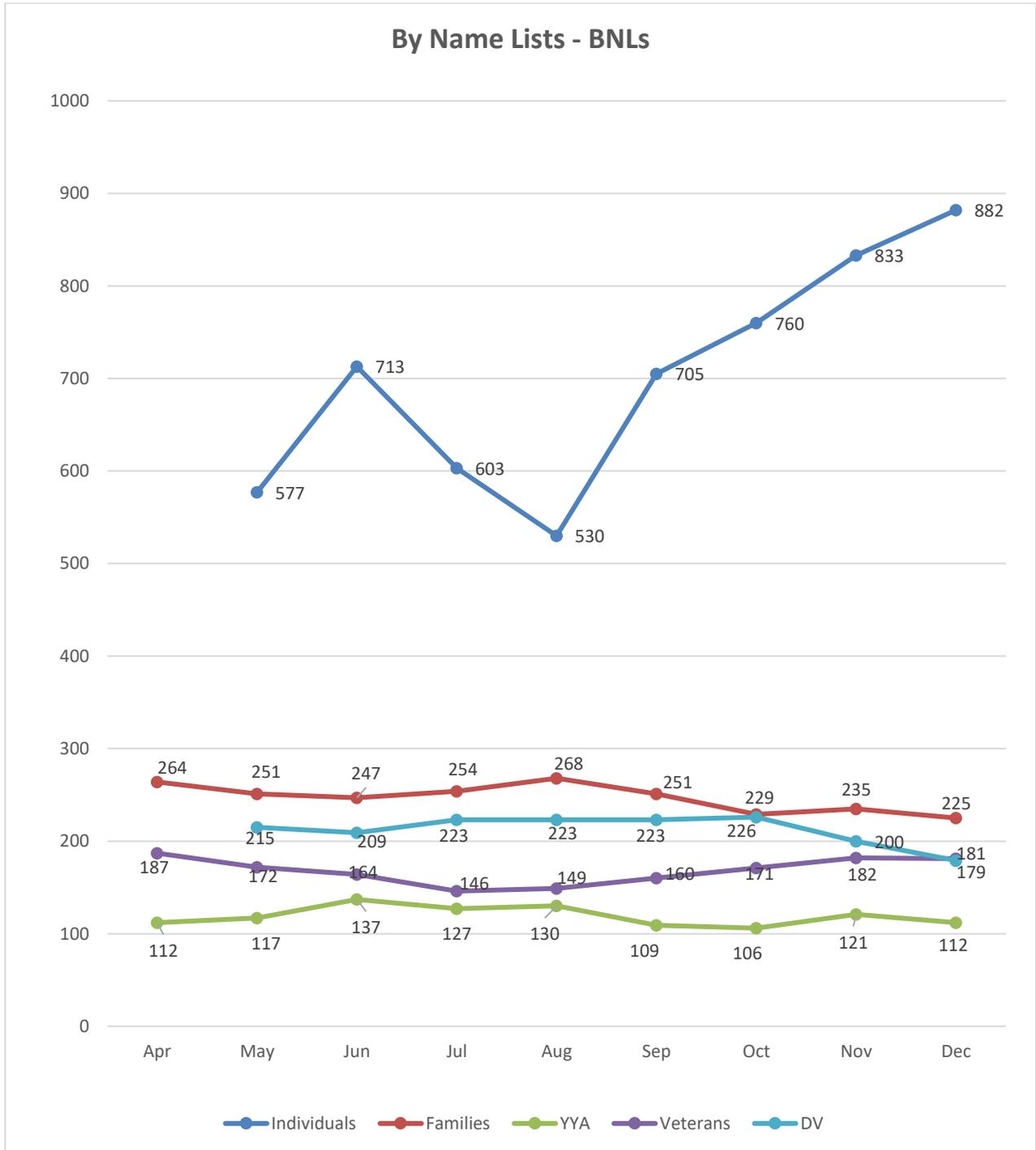
The quality of data depends on improving the following:

1. Having an adequately staffed HMIS Lead Team. At present, we have 2 FTE and a temporary worker. Continuums of Care of comparable size have 4-5 FTEs.
2. Continue to train HMIS end users. Our team is discovering a lot of data entry mistakes that need to be corrected ASAP to ensure we can provide accurate reports.
3. Continue our partnership with Nashville Rescue Mission to include their emergency shelter data in HMIS. The Homeless Impact Division is ready to receive that data.

Under the guidance of our stellar HMIS team our community has been able to significantly improve the functionality of HMIS. With this year’s ability to safely share data among participating partners, Nashville is on the right track, but not quite there yet when it comes to producing an unduplicated annualized number of people experiencing homelessness.

By Name Lists

While the Homeless Impact Division is keeping track of four By Name Lists (BNLs) for Veterans, Youth and Young Adults, Families with minor children, and Individuals, we are currently most confident in the quality of the BNLs for Veterans and the Youth and Young Adults. The Homeless Impact Division team is working with Domestic Violence (DV) providers on their BNL. We will keep including them in this report (thank you to the Mary Parrish Center for providing that data).



The following BNLs provide more detailed information of the different populations: Youth and Young Adults (YYA), Individuals, Veterans, Families, and Domestic Violence (DV)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

Moving forward, we plan to include six months of data in these regular reports.

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
YYA BNL									
How many YYA are on the BNL at the end of the month?	112	117	137	127	130	109	106	121	112
How many YYA were housed?	9	10	4	11	9	19	11	9	27
What was the average length of time from identification to housing?	152 days	75 days	98 days	104 days	144 days	124 days	113 days	94 days	125 days
How many new YYA were added to the BNL?	18	18	18	18	18	14	20	16	23
How many previously housed YYA were added to the BNL?	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	1
How many previously inactive YYA were added to the BNL?	10	1	5	3	3	7	4	5	6
What was the total BNL inflow?	29	19	24	21	22	22	26	23	30

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Individual BNL									
How many individuals on the BNL at the end of the month?		577	713	603	530	705	760	833	882
How many individuals were housed?	8	25	14	22	13	19	53	48	97
What was the average length of time from	421 days	142 days	213 days	214 days	215 days	253 days	154 days	214 days	186 days

identification to housing?

What was the total BNL inflow?

44	39	232 (100 are imports from DV, 88 of whom entered CE before June but added to the Individual BNL in June)	49	86	241	179	132	205

April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

Veterans BNL

How many Veterans are on the BNL at the end of the month?

How many Veterans were housed?

What was the average length of time from identification to housing?

How many Veterans met the chronic definition?

How many have experienced long-term homelessness?

How many Veterans were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing, or death?

What was the total BNL inflow?

187	172	164	146	149	160	171	182	181
15	18	11	22	9	6	28	19	13
238 days	175 days	178 days	247 days	149 days	225 days	166 days	228 days	198 days
40	45	42	47	37	30	32	40	44
22	22	22	22	21	18	18	22	23
36	26	23	35	7	12	40	26	13
36	10	11	16	20	30	45	36	29

April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

Family BNL

How many families are on the BNL at the end of the month?

How many families were housed?

What was the average length of time from identification to housing?

How many new families were added to the BNL?

How many previously housed families were added to the BNL?

How many previously inactive families were added to the BNL?

What was the total family BNL inflow?

264	251	247	254	268	251	229	235	225
21	15	36	30	16	43	34	30	40
148	185	193	164	243 days	213 days	105 days	97 days	128 days
22	24	29	49	38	52	42	27	34
1	3	4	3	2	4	1	0	5
10	4	6	5	9	10	6	6	3
33	31	39	57	49	66	69	33	41

DV BNL

How many DV/IPV Survivor households are on the BNL at the end of the month?

How many DV/IPV survivor households were housed?

What was the average length of time from identification to housing?

April May June July August Sept Oct Nov Dec

data unavailable	215	209	223	223	223	226	200	179
35	31	21	13	22	13	13	15	25
75 days	129 days	109 days	156 Days	135 Days	168 Days	111 Days	148 Days	189 days

How many DV/IPV survivors met the chronic definition?	0 new entries total in BNL unavailable	4 new entries total in BNL unavailable	8 new entries total in BNL: 29	33	33	35	40	34	30
How many DV/IPV survivors on the DV-CE BNL are active on the High-Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)?	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	21	21	20	16	15
How many DV/IPV survivors were exited from HMIS due to inactivity, housing, or death?	3	14	11	22	12	15	10	15	23
What was the total # of assessments completed?	27	37	35	47	37	43	41	27	28
What was the total BNL inflow?	27	31	33	46	35	42	40	26	28

Personal Stories

It is important that we look beyond the numbers and data and do not forget that each person has a story to tell. Here are two personal stories we wanted to share.

A gentleman from Nashville became homeless after years of substance use. After months of sobriety, he moved in with a friend and began working full time. However, he struggled with the loss of a close relative who passed away and unfortunately relapsed. Consequently, he became unable to pay his portion of rent. He moved to Nashville Rescue Mission and during the COVID pandemic, he transferred over to the Fairgrounds. Once he arrived, he took advantage of the AA classes provided and began to realize the importance of stability and housing. He received SSI and applied for housing. He made pact with himself to stay sober and drug free due to the negative effect it was having on his life. After a couple of weeks, he was approved for housing, and Metro assisted in his move. He was extremely grateful for the assistance Metro provided during his journey back to permanent housing.

Move-in Assistance

The Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID) assists with move-in costs including security and utility deposits, first month rent, and some arrears. The sources for these move-in costs are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars through a partnership with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA), Metro dollars out of the General Fund, and a *How's Nashville* community donation fund managed by MHID.

Only trained housing navigators can apply for move-in costs on behalf of their clients. MHID provides monthly housing navigator trainings to partner agencies that have full-time staff who provide outreach, case management or other social service assistance. Payments are made directly to landlords and utility companies.

In December 2020, a total of 24 clients received move-in cost assistance utilizing one of the funds available through MHID. The total monthly move-in assistance was \$15,180.18. The average assistance came to \$632.50 per household.

Equity and Diversity

The Continuum of Care Equity and Diversity Committee presented an Anti-Racism Pledge to the Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council, which adopted that pledge. We have added it in Appendix A.

Cold Weather Plan

Metro has started coordinating a Cold Weather Community Response Plan in 2013. Each year, community providers including Room In The Inn, Nashville Rescue Mission, Launch Pad, Open Table Nashville, and Metro departments have come together to develop a communitywide plan that outlines the processes to access available shelter beds during extremely cold weather from Nov. 1-March 31.

The Metro Cold Weather Overflow Shelter opens overnight when temperatures are predicted to reach 28 degrees Fahrenheit* or below. This year, 250-300 winter shelter beds are accessible to people from 7 pm to 7 am each time temperatures reach 28 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The location of Metro's cold weather overflow shelter is at the Fairgrounds in a separate building that is adjacent to the existing Social Distancing and the COVID+/Isolation shelters. All three shelter operations that are run by Metro at the Fairgrounds are in separate buildings to limit anyone's potential exposure to COVID.

Based on input from the community providers, the Office of Emergency Management monitors the temperatures each day what temperatures are predicted as the low for the next night using the National Weather Service (for zip code 37203). Metro announces to providers the day prior to the opening of a shelter. Therefore, Metro opens a shelter based on temperature forecast from the day prior rather than actual temperature the day of the event.

Metro has opened a shelter on:
Cold Weather nights for this season:

11/30: 54 people, 1 dog
12/1: 69 people, 3 dogs
12/14: 67 people, 1 dog
12/17: 73 people, 1 dog
12/24: 87 people, 1 dog
12/25: 110 people, 3 dogs
1/9: 57 people, 6 dogs
1/10: 77 people, 3 dogs
1/11: 91 people, 4 dogs
1/12: 83 people, 3 dogs
1/22: 64 people, 3 dogs
1/27: 81 people, 4 dogs
1/28: 87 people, 4 dogs

For detailed information, please visit www.coldweathernashville.com.

**This temperature was determined by community providers and was increased from 25 degrees Fahrenheit a few years ago. The main argument to settle at 28 degrees Fahrenheit was that outreach workers and canvassers determined that this seems to be the threshold temperature most people who are offered a ride to shelters are taking volunteers up on that offer.*

This report includes some highlights from October and November 2020. If you would like additional information and/or have questions regarding building an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System to address homelessness in Nashville-Davidson County, please email Judith Tackett, the director of the Homeless Impact Division, at judith.tackett@nashville.gov

Glossary

By Name List (BNL) - A real-time up, up-to-date list of all people experiencing homelessness, which can be filtered by categories and shared across agencies. In essence, this provides a regular census of how many people have been identified as experiencing homelessness in Nashville. Our community is working on these lists constantly. We do not feel we have the capacity quite yet to produce quality lists for all populations.

Collaborative Applicant - The organization that is designated by the CoC to collect and submit the CoC Registration, CoC Consolidated Application, and apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC during the CoC Program Competition. More information is available at hudexchange.info.

Continuum of Care (CoC) - A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for individuals, families, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. A CoC creates a collaborative community effort that provides a strategic systems approach that focuses on connecting people to housing and services to end their homelessness.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) - A program to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. ESG provides grants by formula to states, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and U.S. Territories to support homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Rapid Re-Housing.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) - a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. It is used as a tool to evaluate people's needs and assist them more effectively, avoiding duplication of services. To make HMIS functional and effective, our community recently took the first steps to allow agencies to share data within HMIS.

Homelessness Planning Council – a 25-member board that serves as the Continuum of Care's governance board. It was created in July 2018 to unify our community's efforts to build an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System (HCRS). The board's official name is the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council and it is anchored within Metro government through BL2018-1199. Members consist of 8 mayoral appointees, 3 Council members appointed by the Vice Mayor, and 14 board members elected by the Continuum of Care general membership.

Housing Crisis Resolution System (HCRS) – A community system that includes all types of programs from prevention/diversion, emergency and temporary interventions to permanent housing solutions. An effective Housing Crisis Resolution System focuses on identifying people in a housing crisis as early as possible and connects them with housing and needed supports as quickly as possible. In Davidson County, the current goal is to house people in an average of 90 days or less.

Point In Time (PIT) Count – A one-night count conducted within the last 10 days of January of people meeting the Literal Homelessness definition. The PIT Count should be used as part of a data set including data from HMIS, the local school system, and other data sources to provide a full picture of homelessness in a community.

Rapid Re-Housing - provides short-term rental assistance and services. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed. It is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the needs of the person.

VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) – is a triage tool in form of a self-reported survey to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homeless individuals, families, and youth. It allows to determine the appropriate housing intervention based on vulnerability determinants.

Appendix A: Anti-Racism Pledge

Nashville Continuum of Care, Equity and Diversity Committee

ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE (i.e. “Here’s how I’m going to show up.”)

As the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC) Homelessness Planning Council, we take the following pledge to dismantle racism:

We define racism as racial prejudice plus the misuse of power by systems and institutions (misuse can be intentional or unintentional). We are mindful of the racial inequities across housing, economic mobility, health care, criminal justice, and other systems. These all contribute to racial inequities in homelessness. For example, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are overrepresented in the population of people experiencing homelessness. Implicit (i.e. subconscious) biases of service providers can result in fewer housing opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Cognizant of institutional and structural racism as well as the daily realities of all forms of bias, prejudice and bigotry in our own life, our family, our circles of friends, our co-workers and the society in which we live, with conviction and hope:

We pledge to stay mindful of the power and privilege that we bring into every space that we enter and conversation that we have.

We pledge to actively and intentionally practice antiracism when participating on the CoC Homelessness Planning Council, representing this council and the CoC in the community, and in talking about homelessness and housing issues in Nashville. While the realities of racism are much larger than us and this council, the decisions we make day-to-day as professionals can literally either open or close doors for people. We have an opportunity to learn and make different choices about how we interact with colleagues and clients, which can in turn directly impact access to and experiences of housing and services, as well as health and economic outcomes of members of our community.

We pledge to use the knowledge we obtain and differing perspectives to which we are exposed to view each choice we make in our professional and personal lives as an opportunity to move towards racial justice or away from it. And we pledge to move towards it.

We pledge to educate ourselves individually on racial justice issues. We pledge to share what We learn in our own communities: with our family, our partner, our children, our friends, our co-workers and those we encounter on a daily basis, even if and especially when this means challenging people around us in the process. We pledge to have difficult conversations and endure uncomfortable interactions in order to deepen our own understanding through this sharing as well as give others the opportunity to come along with us so that we can move together towards justice. We pledge to choose being uncomfortable so that others can be safe.

We pledge to cultivate a life that encourages us to be confronted, accurately and often, with how racial injustice and inequity show up in our society.

We pledge to ally with others who commit to dismantling institutionalized racism in the wider community.

We pledge to remember and honor intersectionality: that all aspects of an individual’s social and political identity, including their gender, race, class, sexuality, physical and mental abilities, cultures of origin and current cultural context, contribute to a person’s experience and treatment, and that any combination of these aspects creates a unique lived experience. We will consider the intersection of these identities in thinking about how systems advantage or disadvantage people based on marginalized social identities and understanding that individuals’ identities will impact how they experience racism.

We take this pledge, fully aware that the struggle to eliminate racism will not end with a mere pledge but calls for an ongoing transformation within each of us and the institutions and structures of our society.

We pledge to reflect internally and continue ongoing introspection to identify internal racial bias; to rebuke the use of racist language and behavior towards others; to root out such racism in our daily lives and in our encounters with persons we know and with strangers we do not know; and to expand our consciousness to be more aware and sensitive to our individual use of overt and subtle expressions of racism and racial stereotypes.

We recognize that no matter the level of our efforts to end racism, we will inevitably make mistakes in how we encounter this transformation. We therefore pledge to move forward with humility and compassion about the experiences of others, with vulnerability and sincerity about our own experiences, and with understanding of disparities that exist between our lived realities. We will remember that correction and accountability are vital to this process and commit to listening to others completely, to being challenged both privately and in group settings about our individual beliefs, and to take necessary time to consider the thoughts others offer us without reacting defensively.

We pledge to actively support practices and policies that prominently, openly and enthusiastically promote racial equity in homelessness and housing; and to actively support and devote our time to the CoC Homelessness Planning Council, as well as other groups and organizations, working to eradicate racism from our society.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*The term intersectionality was coined by Black feminist scholar Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw in 1989

This pledge has been adapted by members of the Nashville-Davidson CoC from the YWCA USA Stand Against Racism Pledge, which was adapted from the Pledge to Eliminate Racism in My Life, YWCA Bergen County which is an adaptation of the Pledge to Heal Racism in My Life, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, April 10, 2006